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cause of the injury, and excepted to an order refusing to direct a verdict in his favor. The Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts overruled the exception in Williams *v.* Brennan, 99 Northeastern Reporter, 516.

Innkeeper's Liability—Lost Luggage—Termination of Relation of Innkeeper and Guest—Contributory Negligence.—Portman *v.* Griffin. Where a guest, having stayed at a hotel for two nights, paid his bill and left his luggage with the hall porter so that he might get it without delay when he called for it, and the County Court Judge found that the relation of innkeeper and guest had ceased to exist when the bill was paid and that there had been contributory negligence in the directions given as to the temporary care of the luggage, held, that these were questions of fact and that there was evidence to support the Judge's findings.

Appeal from the decision of the Judge of the Westminster County Court. The plaintiff, Mr. G. Portman, sued the defendant, the proprietor of the Jermyn Court Hotel, to recover damages for the loss of a suit case belonging to him, the value of which was assessed by the Judge at 18*l.*

The plaintiff, who was a member of the University of Oxford and also a student at the Inner Temple, was staying in town for the purpose of eating his dinners preparatory to being called to the Bar. On April 24 last he went to the defendant's hotel, where he remained for two nights. On April 26, at about 5,30 in the evening, he paid his bill and directed that his luggage should be brought from his room. He informed the porter that he should be leaving Paddington Station at 9:30 p. m. for Oxford after dining at the Inner Temple, and that he would call for his luggage in a cab, and desired that it should be placed in a convenient place so that he might get it without delay. He told the lady clerk in the office the same thing. The luggage, with the plaintiff's knowledge, was placed near the little office in the hall where the doorkeeper or hotel porter sat, and upon the plaintiff calling for it the suit case had gone.

The County Court Judge held that the relation of innkeeper and guest had ceased to exist when the plaintiff paid his bill, and that there had been contributory negligence on the part of the plaintiff in the directions given by him as to the place where the luggage should be put. The plaintiff appealed.

Ernest Walsh appeared for the plaintiff; and Hilbery for the defendant.

Their Lordships dismissed the appeal, holding that the questions as to whether the relationship of innkeeper and guest had come to an end, and of the contributory negligence on the part of the plaintiff, were questions of fact, and that there was evidence to support the findings of the Judge in regard to them. Appeal dismissed.

Solicitors: Andrew Walsh, Gray & Rose for the appellant; Stilgoes for the respondent.—London Law Journal, February, 1913.